

Salem District: Six-Year Improvement Program Highlights

General Funding Information

- The Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 provides \$3.7 billion in funding for rail and transit programs over the six year period.
- Governor McAuliffe's omnibus transportation bill, HB
 1887, which passed in the 2015 General Assembly
 Session with bipartisan support, provides approximately
 \$40 million annually in additional transit capital funding.
 FY17 marks the first year that these funds are available.
- The additional transit capital funding mitigates a
 portion of the loss of funding anticipated in FY21 due to
 the expiration of transportation Capital Projects Revenue (CPR) bonds; however, more
 funds will be necessary to fully address the impending funding shortfall.
- For FY17, DRPT's SYIP includes \$695.5 million funding for mass transit, rail, public transportation, and related programs, which is a combination of state and state-controlled federal funding.
- Of the state total, \$14 million is going to the Salem district to support public transportation and commuter services, and \$29.6 million is going to support freight and passenger rail in the district.*

* This number includes funding for projects that span multiple districts

Public Transportation and Commuter Services

DRPT has allocated approximately \$1 million in state and state-controlled federal transit capital funding for commuter programs and human services. Commuters use these programs to get to work, while human services address the needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low income communities.

The Department also provides funds for the ongoing operation of the RIDE Solutions, which services the Salem district. RIDE Solutions provides ridematching services and alternative transportation options – carpool, vanpool, biking, public transit, walking, and guaranteed ride home services – to residents living within the greater New River and Roanoke Valleys and Lynchburg regions of southwestern Virginia.





Additionally, DRPT is contributing \$17.5 million in state and state-controlled federal funding to the construction of an administration building for Blacksburg Transit on the Virginia Tech campus, which will become the main hub for all bus routes coming into the campus area. Not only will it reduce vehicle and pedestrian traffic on campus, but it will also allow Blacksburg Transit to consolidate services and provide more direct access to Virginia Tech.

Freight and Passenger Rail

DRPT has entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern and the City of Roanoke to extend Amtrak service from Lynchburg to Roanoke by 2017. This service will travel into the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

The SYIP includes \$3.8 million in FY 17 for siding tracks in Clark as part of the I-81 Crescent Corridor program. This program endeavors to handle more and longer trains in a freight corridor paralleling interstate highways which will help alleviate truck congestion on major interstate highways.

